B2 --(MV*l*,MVc,Mvb)--;

line 20, change "MVl,MVr,MVa,MVb" to

B3 --MV*l*,MVr,MVa,MVb--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (amended)   A method of motion-compensated predictive image encoding, comprising the steps of:

estimating (ME) first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] *MVl*, MVr, MVa, MVb) for first objects (16*16);

filtering (MVPF) every occurrence of said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] *MVl*, MVr, MVa, MVb) to obtain second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4) for second objects (8*8), said second objects (8*8) being smaller than said first objects (16*16);

generating (3) prediction errors in dependence on said second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4); and

combining (VLC) said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) and said prediction errors.

Claim 2. (amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first objects (16*16) are macro-blocks, said second objects (8*8) are blocks, and said filtering step (MVPF) comprises the steps of:

providing x and y motion vector components of a given macro-block (MVc) and of macro-blocks ([MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) adjacent to said given macro-block (MVc); and

supplying for each block (MV1) of a number of blocks (MV1-MV4) corresponding to said given macro-block (MVc), x and y motion vector components respectively selected from said x and y motion vector components of said

given macro-block (MVc) and from the x and y motion vector components of ~~two blocks ([MVl]~~ MV*l*, MVa) adjacent to said block (MV1).

Claim 3. (amended)   A device for motion-compensated predictive image encoding, comprising:

means for estimating (ME) first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) for first objects (16*16);

means for filtering (MVPF) <u>every occurrence of</u> said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) to obtain second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4) for second objects (8*8), said second objects (8*8) being smaller than said first objects (16*16);

means for generating (3) prediction errors in dependence on said second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4); and

means for combining (VLC) said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) and said prediction errors.

Claim 4. (amended)   A method of motion-compensated predictive decoding, comprising the steps of:

generating (VLC^{-1}) first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) and prediction errors from an input bit-stream, said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) relating to first objects (16*16);

filtering (MVPF) <u>every occurrence of</u> said first motion vectors (MVc, [MVl] MV*l*, MVr, MVa, MVb) to obtain second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4) for second objects (8*8), said second objects (8*8) being smaller than said first objects (16*16); and

generating (15, MC) an output signal in dependence

on said prediction errors and said second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4).

Claim 5. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first objects (16*16) are macro-blocks, said second objects (8*8) are blocks, and said filtering step (MVPF) comprises the steps of:

providing x and y motion vector components of a given macro-block (MVc) and of macro-blocks ([MV1] MV*1*, MVr, MVa, MVb) adjacent to said given macro-block (MVc); and

supplying for each block (MV1) of a number of blocks (MV1-MV4) corresponding to said given macro-block (MVc), x and y motion vector components respectively selected from said x and y motion vector components of said given macro-block (MVc) and from the x and y motion vector components of two blocks ([MV1] MV*1*, MVa) adjacent to said block (MV1).

Claim 6. (amended) A device for motion-compensated predictive decoding, comprising:

means for generating (VLC^{-1}) first motion vectors (MVc, [MV1] MV*1*, MVr, MVa, MVb) and prediction errors from an input bit-stream, said first motion vectors (MVc, [MV1] MV*1*, MVr, MVa, MVb) relating to first objects (16*16);

means for filtering (MVPF) every occurrence of said first motion vectors (MVc, [MV1] MV*1*, MVr, MVa, MVb) to obtain second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4) for second objects (8*8), said second objects (8*8) being smaller than said first objects (16*16); and

means for generating (15, MC) an output signal in dependence on said prediction errors and said [second motion vectors (MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4)] first motion vectors (MVc, MV*1*